

In the Religious World

When a King Found His Song.
The International Sunday School Lesson for June 13 is "The Blessed of Forgiveness."—Psalm 32.

(BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.)

In some matters we bow to our tyrannous modernity; but in all fundamentals of life we know that there is no change. Essentials of life remain as they were millenniums ago. What was most important in the days of King David is still most important today. Three thousand years have passed since King David sat on his throne of splendor, and in that day his supreme concern was his relation with Jehovah. Spiritual values were placed higher than all material interests. The profoundest utterances of David had to do with the state of his human soul. Spiritual peace concerned him more than military glory.

"Ah, but that was long ago," says some up-to-date youngster. "These modern days are more practical. Not a bit of it, my boy. Look deeply enough into life and you will find the same things which mattered in the days of Noah. Let me tell you two stories to illustrate my points. The first was told me by a good friend with whom I lunched at the Union League club on Third avenue, New York. My friend had named a "big business" man, known as hard and cold and relentless in all his transactions, a veritable money-making machine. One day last February he was going along Fifth avenue when he hailed my friend, saying, "Look here, you are the very man I want to see. I want to know somebody. I was over in Philadelphia the other day and I went to hear that man Billy Sunday. I thought I was past all emotionalism, but Sunday stirred depths in me that I didn't know existed. The spiritual emotions that I had experienced as a young man came flooding over me again. I confess to you that I am a bit of a convert. I can't be that this man of millions whose time was so precious, was spending daylight hours and sitting on a board bench listening to an untutored preacher talk about sin and forgiveness and the love of Christ? Ah, my friend, there were many men of might and money who would give their kingdoms for the secret of peace which the Gospel proclaims.

When the Millionaire Wept.
Here is another story, and it, too, is related to Billy Sunday. It was told me by one of the millionaires concerning another. I had seen them both at the Billy Sunday tabernacle in Philadelphia while the preacher was swaying a multitude of worshippers mightily by him; but then, say the critics, they were only the glibbly masses. Yet these two millionaires have such a standing that there is no business man in America who would not admit their practical shrewdness and modern efficiency. Both are a power in the national life.

The other millionaire, an active Christian, said to me a few days later, "I never saw X. so affected as he was that night. Tears ran down his face. He was touched to his depths by that simple message. After the meeting he went with me to my home and we talked for a long while about the sermon, and about faith in Christ and about what it meant to him. Spiritual peace is still the supreme concern of mankind. There are unnumbered lives today, which outwardly seem brilliant and prosperous and favored, which nevertheless carry breaking hearts because of the spiritual unrest and consciousness of unforgiveness. Verily, who can count but being right with God. That alone is real success. Man's relation with his Maker is the one theme worth agonizing over. King David agonized and wept over it in this Thirty-second Psalm.

The Master of Music.
There is a piano in a certain home, which is a good piano according to market standards, but for the family it had never produced any great music. The baby thrummed on it, and the boys played mechanically labored tunes. Occasional family parties were held, but the piano was never used. One day there came to visit that home a real master of music, a great performer. Then followed a revelation of the possibilities of the piano. It seemed as if the flood-gates of harmony were opened. The whole room was transformed. The instrument itself seemed a new creation after once the master-touch had been upon its keys.

All the while the music was there within the piano. It only needed a master-hand to bring it forth. So it is with these sin-scarred, sin-restrained lives of ours. They need the emancipating touch of the master-hand of Christ. With His co-operation the least of us can be and do more than we have ever dreamed of or dreamed. Nobody ever attains his full possibilities of peace and power until his life has been given over to Christ.

The Silent Harp.
For a year King David's harp had been silent. It had lost its music of God's peace. Sin had broken its strings. The great sin of murder was true. He had triumphed in passion's plot of lust and murder. Uriah was dead and Bathsheba was his. Yet David's inward unhappiness was greater than words could express. He knew himself separated from God. Nothing went right with him. There was strife and unpleasantness in the palace. The misery of life, the suicides that seem so mysterious, can usually be explained by the one little word "sin."

Suddenly as we studied last week, Nathan revealed the sinning king to himself. In agony of spirit David cried out for forgiveness. He knew where to go in his hour of need. Pity those whose feet are not accustomed to the path to the Mercy Seat. David, penitent, confessed and was pardoned. Then in new and profound joy and with a fresh understanding of the character of God, David broke forth in his new song, the song of forgiveness, which is today's lesson:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

"Blessed is the man unto whom Jehovah imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

"When I keep silence, my bones were wasted away; through my groaning all the day long.

"For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my moisture was changed as with the drought of summer.

"I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and hid not my iniquity; did I not say, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

"For this let everyone that is godly pray unto Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found: surely when the great waters overflow they shall not reach unto him.

"Thou art my hiding place; Thou wilt preserve me from trouble; and from iniquity shall Thou deliver me.

"Thou shalt not be angry with me, O Lord; neither shalt Thou be wroth with me, O Lord; for Thy mercies are above all sin.

"And Thy truth, O Lord, shall be established; Thy righteousness shall be exalted; for Thou hast loved righteousness above all sin.

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Thou wilt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; and mine eye shall be upon thee.

"Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding; whose trappings must be bit and bridle to hold them in; else they will not come near unto thee.

"Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in Jehovah, kindness shall compass him about.

"Be glad in Jehovah, and rejoice, ye who are upright in heart; and shout for joy all ye that are upright in heart.

The New Song.
Only sin confessed, is sin forgiven. That is the heart of this Psalm. Unconfessed sin is unforgiven. It is like a cancer in the center of life that affects all the being. We may accept it as a fundamental spiritual truth, that wherever the Spirit of God is accorded full sway there will be confession of sin.

A few months ago in Wooster college, Ohio, there was a memorable revival, of which the apex was a session in which without premeditation or expectation, the students confessed their sins to one another and to God. So it was with the great Korean revival. Confessions marked all the great meetings. The same is the history of the Welsh revival. These but illustrate the Scriptural teachings, that if any one is traveling along combatively with his old sins, he is not walking with God.

Pardoned spirits are given a new start. Some persons will never forget the scene when thousands of hearts among the Billy Sunday converts marched down the street singing:

"Since Jesus came into my heart, like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart, like the sea billows roll."

The scene reminded one of the Scripture: "He hath put a new song in my mouth." David was rejoicing because forgiven. He had that inward peace which the world cannot give or take away.

The most comprehensive cure for day's evils is revealed by pure religion. When public leaders and the people following find that new life of forgiveness and righteousness is in Christ, all our political and social and economic wrongs will be remedied. The last word taught by David in this lesson is "Get right with God."

The Young Man's Day.
Terse Comments on the Uniform Prayer Meeting Topic of the Young People's Societies—Christian Endeavor, etc.—for June 13. "Christ's Call to the Young Men of Today."—Mark 1:16-20.

(BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.)

Ah, the thrill, the glory, the possibility of being alive in this day, and of being a young man! Never was there such a time for youth's achievements as this. All the engines of our marvelous inventions, and civilization, which enable a man to reach the world's end almost in a wink, are all the work of youth. It is the work of youth to build the world of the future.

Three marks of manhood are indicated by St. John, after he had ripened in the service of his Master. He has written unto you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one. So runs the familiar message from the chapter of John's first general letter. First, young men are strong. They are strong in their youth. They are equal to the summons. Second, they are Bible-students. The appeal that the exhilarating word of God makes to chivalrous youth is even greater than its appeal to comfort-seeking age. Idealistic, altruistic, inspiring, the word finds a congenial home in the breast of youth. Their youth has not yet acquired the habit of surrender to evil. They are more valorous than prudential, and they are not afraid to offer battle to the evil one. And they can overcome; that is the testimony of the Church throughout all the ages. What an equipment then, have youth for service!—strength, inspiration, and courage. Small wonder that God's Son came as a young man to redeem the world, and that He chose for His friends and successors a group of men whose chief qualification was their youth.

Chaste as the virgin lily on her stem, yet in each hot, full pulse, each tropic More filled with feeling than the flower with sun;

No anchorite—hale, sinewy, warm with love—I come in youth's high tide of bliss to thee.

—Knowles.

The average young man today has privileges and facilities and opportunities which Alexander the Great never enjoyed.

No man truly answers Christ's call without wanting to repeat it to somebody else.

A holy life in the twentieth century is not essentially different from a holy life in the first century. Only it sheds its radiance and fragrance farther. Our world has widened; and each of us is imperial in the number of people he may affect.

Were the whole world good as you—not an atom better.

Were it just as pure and true, and as free from faith and works; just as free from crafty guile; and as each of us imperial in the number of people he may affect.

Would this world be better?

If this whole world followed you—followed to the letter—

Would it be a nobler world. All deceit and falsehood buried from it altogether;

Malice, selfishness and lust banished from beneath the crust; kindness in another's trouble; courage in our own. —Adam Lindsay Gordon.

The British Weekly.

Comprehended in a phrase, the call of Christ to every young man is "Follow thou Me." He wants them, like the young Galileans who made up His company, to be His disciples. They are to share His work, do His will and learn His mind. That is a life pursuit offering ample scope for the fullest powers of ablest manhood. All the world acclaims the primacy of Christ's leadership today. There is no other career equal to sharing His life and work.

An Indian patriot, whose abilities have been recognized and honored by the British government, Hon. G. K. Gokhale, a Brahman, has rallied a few choice youth into a remarkable organization, the "Servants of India" Society. This wise Brahman has frankly appealed to the loftiest idealism of youth. He, like Jesus offers his followers a cross. Although from the highest caste, they accept the name of servant. Among the vows taken upon admission are these:

"That the country will always be first in his thoughts, and that he will give to her service the best that is in him.

"That in serving the country he will seek no personal advantage for himself.

"That he will regard all Indians as brothers and will work for the advancement of all, without distinction of caste or creed.

"That he will lead a pure personal life.

"That he will engage in no personal quarrel with any one."

Such devoted bands as this mean more to a nation's social order than many a great political party. Would that our own country and the church might have more of them. For, as the little band of disciples have proved, a group of young men willing to sacrifice all things, even unto life itself, for their ideals, can change the face of the whole human order.

Call the roll of achievers and mark the ages of the great. Surely the lesson is, in the lines of Emerson,

"The youth replies, 'I can!'"

One recent writer tells us, "that Raphael painted the Madonna of St. Anthony at 22 years of age, the Sistine Madonna at 27, the 'Prometheus Unbound,' at 27. Alexander Hamilton wrote two of the most influential political pamphlets of his time at 17; and at 20 he joined Washington's army."

John Calvin published his "Institutes of Theology" at 27. Burns wrote three of his greatest poems at the same age. William Pitt was 300 compositions; at 20 he was the greatest composer of Europe. Keats won an immortal place among English poets and died at 26. Edison at 22 received \$40,000 for a telegraphic invention. Isaac Newton ignored all the authority and tradition of time, and discovered the law of gravitation at 27. Bell didn't know he couldn't talk from Denver to Boston, so he invented the telephone at 29."

Christ's call to greatness is a call to courage, to sympathy, to service, to saintliness, to valorhood. "It is enough that the disciple should be as his Master."

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge.—Caryle.

The man who does not manifest love now, has no love.—Leo Tolstol.

Life is mostly froth and bubble;

Two things stand like stone: Kindness in another's trouble; Courage in our own. —Adam Lindsay Gordon.

The man who never alters his opinion is like standing water, and breeds reptiles of the mind.—William Blake.

Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?—Genesis 18:25.

Still stands thine ancient sacrifice, A humble and a contrite heart. —Kipling.

As soon as a man becomes satisfied with himself and what he has done, he has ceased to improve and has begun to degenerate.—George Eliot.

CHURCH NOTICES.

(Unless otherwise noted in this column the services in the churches will be held at 10 o'clock in the morning and 8 o'clock in the evening.)

First Christian church, 823 Topeka avenue, Dr. O. L. Cook, pastor. Special illustrated sermon in the morning at 10:30 o'clock. Program by the children in the evening.

Central Congregational church, Huntoon and Buchanan streets, Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, pastor. Rev. Willis Goldsmith, assistant pastor. Morning service with reading by the Lord's supper.

First United Brethren church, Twelfth and Quincy streets, Rev. J. K. Hartman, pastor. Children's Day services in the morning.

Lowman Methodist church, Eleventh and Morris avenue, W. M. Balch, pastor. Children's Day exercises at the morning service. Evening service, sermon by Rev. E. E. Wolfe, D. D.

First German Methodist church, Fifth and Tyler, A. J. Ross, pastor. Children's Day sermon at 10:45 o'clock. Song service with reading by Miss Rose Geiser and others at 7:45 o'clock.

First United Brethren church, Eighth and Topeka avenues. Preaching morning and evening by Rev. T. N. McQuoid of Youngstown, Ohio.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, Second and Van Buren streets, P. D. Mueller, pastor. German services at 10:30 o'clock. Evening services in English.

First Swedish Baptist church, Fourth and Fillmore streets, Rev. C. A. Aldeen, pastor. Public examination with the pastor's two Bible classes, in the morning. Children's day program in the evening by the Sunday school.

Evangelical association, Fourth and Monroe streets, J. K. Young, pastor. Morning service at 10:45 o'clock.

First Baptist church, Ninth and Jackson streets, Rev. Robert Gordon, pastor. Children's day program by the Sunday school in the morning. Evening sermon subject, "What Shall the Answer Be?"

Church of St. Simon, the Cyrenian, Rev. Geo. Gilbert Walker, M. A., priest. Morning sermon subject, "War." Vesper service at 4:30 o'clock. Subject, "Peace."

East side M. E. church, Seventh and Lime streets, J. P. Youngman, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "Conscience." Children's day program in the evening.

Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Sixth and Harrison streets. Subject, "God, the Preserver of Man."

First Methodist Episcopal church, Sixth and Harrison streets, Rev. Benjamin Young, D. D., pastor. Morning

service, children's day program and baptismal service. Evening sermon subject, "The Great Hymn of the Church."

First Presbyterian church, Eighth and Harrison streets, Rev. Stephen S. Estey, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "The Modern Child." Evening subject, "The Sure Reward."

Second United Presbyterian church, Huntoon and Fillmore streets, Rev. William Jackson, pastor. Children's day services in the morning. Evening service subject, sermon in the series to the young people, "Young People and Environment."

Church of the Good Shepherd, Laurent and North Quincy streets, Rev. A. J. G. Dowie, rector. Morning services at 7:30 and 11 o'clock. Evensong and sermon at 5 o'clock.

Second Presbyterian church, North Jackson and Gordon streets, Rev. Joseph P. Hicks, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "The Bible and Why All Should Study It." Evening service, the fifth sermon in the series on "Intercession." Theme, "Bible Answers to Prayer."

Associated Bible Students, free lecture by E. E. Crouch at Lincoln Post hall at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Subject, "Creation."

St. John's M. E. church, Seventh and Topeka avenue, J. M. Brown, pastor. Preaching morning and evening by the presiding elder. Communion service at 3 o'clock. Sermon by Rev. B. R. Ross of Brown.

Spiritualist Temple Builders, 122 East Sixth street, meeting at 7:30 o'clock. Messages and a lecture by J. H. Pouchet. Subject, "Evolution of Man as Spiritualists Prove It."

First Congregational church, Seventh and Harrison streets, Rev. Arthur S. Henderson, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "The Kingdom of God On Earth." Evening subject, "The Recurring Question."

Central Park Christian church, Sixteenth and Central Park avenues, R. P. McPherson, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "Paul the Debtor." Evening subject, "The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Church."

Swedish Mission Bethel church, Sixth and Polk streets, R. A. Liljengren, pastor. Special song service in the evening.

Second United Brethren church, Fifth and Leola streets, Rev. M. L. Rohey, pastor. Morning sermon subject, "The Laborer." Evening subject, "Sowing."

Westminster Presbyterian church, College and Huntoon streets. Children's Day exercises in the morning. Evening sermon subject, "The Question of Moral Merit."

Third Presbyterian church, Fourth and Branner streets, Rev. E. Irwin Gilmore, pastor. Children's Day program from 10:30 to 11:30 o'clock. Evangelistic service in the evening.

First English Lutheran church, Fifth and Harrison streets, Rev. M. F. Troxell, pastor. Children's Day services at 10:30 o'clock. Subject, "Songs for Our King." Evening sermon subject, "Salvation and Service."

St. Paul's German Evangelical church, Third and Hancock streets, Rev. G. H. Krueger, pastor. Preaching service at 7:30 o'clock in the evening.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Huntoon and Polk streets. Subject of lesson sermon, "God the Preserver of Man."

Walnut Grove Methodist church, Harrison and Sixteenth, E. W. Spence.

cer, pastor. Children's day exercises Sunday morning. Sunday evening sermon by the pastor.

Third Christian church, Third and Lake streets, H. James Crockett, pastor. Preaching and public worship at 10:45 a. m. Sermons by the pastor.

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